

Amendments to the Specification

Pages 1-2, the paragraph bridging these pages, page 1, line 19 to page 2, line 2, replace the paragraph with:

Another type of SAN, i.e., an IP-SAN, using an iSCSI is recently has received considerable attention. Here, the iSCSI is a protocol used for transmitting and receiving SCSI commands and data over the IP network. The SCSI commands are those conventionally used for communications between computers and storage systems, and data is transferred based on those commands. For details about the iSCSI, refer to "iSCSI" authored by Julian Satran, et al., January 19, 2003, IETF, <URL: ~~http://~~(www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-ietf-ips-iscsi-20.txt)>. Compared with a FC-SAN, an IP-SAN has an advantage in that any existing LAN (Local Area Network) equipment that is already in use as an infrastructure can be used therewith, for example.

Page 2, the third full paragraph, lines 15 to 23, replace the paragraph with:

For an IP-SAN, IPSec may be used to encrypt the communications path between computers and storage systems. For details about IPSec, refer to "Security Architecture for IP" authored by Stephen Kent and Randall Arkinson, November 1998, IETF, <URL: ~~http://~~(www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2401.txt)>. IPSec is a technique used for encrypting a communications path using a shared key. With IPSec, the shared key is managed under IKE (Internet Key Exchange), details of which are found in

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"The Internet Key Exchange (IKE)" authored by Dan Harkins and Dave Carrel,

November 1998, IETF, ~~<URL: http://~~(www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2409.txt)>.